

December 10, 2015

The December 10, 2015 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ruth Pante, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Commission members Ruth Pante, Elaine Drazek, James McMekin, Glenn Todd, Dawn Smith, Robert Jewell; also attending were Township Committeeman Joseph Watters and residents Don Proefrock and Heather Hamilton.

#### Minutes

Ms. Drazek pointed out that she was present at the September 10, 2015 although she was not recorded as present. With that correction, Ms. Drazek MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015 meeting, seconded by Ms. Smith. All in favor. No October meeting was held but instead an ANJEC presentation was held on October 22, 2015. It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the November 15, 2015 meeting, seconded by Ms. Smith. All in favor.

#### Cafferata Park

The grant requires the forester's plan and invoice, which are still awaited. Mr. Terry has applied for permission from the utilities to dig at the park and begin planting the trees being donated. Information was exchanged with Jeff Riley regarding bridge construction as the gate area must remain clear. At the November 23 Township Committee meeting approval was given for the trees, although the redbuds were not included on the plan; Mr. Terry will begin next week and plans to complete before Christmas. As to his request for a memorial site to honor Wilma Stark, this was not discussed at the Township Committee meeting. Because the plan has been approved, this does not appear to be an issue.

Alice and Don Mayberry would like to make a donation toward benches and dedicate them in memory of Alice's parents.

Mr. Proefrock suggested park plans include discussion with the Open Space Committee. He asked what kind of benches are contemplated and reported prices of \$600 to \$3,000 each, asking the size of the Mayberry donation (unknown at this time).

In discussing the park as well as the 2016 budget, Ms. Smith asked to consider park signs, botanical signs, acknowledgement for tree plantings, fence post signs (about \$5 each). Grant money may be available, and Mr. Jewell suggested seeking Open Space funds for the signs. Mr. Proefrock noted the signs will help stimulate interest in the park. Mr. Proefrock also brought a sample bird house, and Mr. Todd explained how tamper-proof bluebird houses can be constructed. Activities at the park include bird watching as well as participation in a National Hiking Day event the first Saturday in June. These improvements and events are good suggestions for an Eagle Scout project and would establish troop contact, possibly with Troop 145 at Rockport Church. Ms. Fascenelli said a roadside cleanup can generate grant funds.

#### 2016 Budget

\$350 Cafferata sign (acknowledging Terry donation and include Stark memorial)

\$150 Botanical signs

\$300 ANJEC membership

\$125 Moth Night

\$925 TOTAL

After discussion of the budget request, it was MOVED by Ms. Smith to approve the amount requested, seconded by Mr. Todd. All in favor. The budget will be submitted for Township approval.

#### Other Business

MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the 2016 meeting dates, seconded by Ms. Drazek. All in favor.

The year-end report is being drafted.

Mr. Todd encouraged placement of bluebird houses; he is seeking rough cut white cedar and suggests that be used for construction. Ms. Drazek suggested construction specs be included on the web site, and she can prepare an addition for the web site to include suggestions for plantings that encourage wildlife protection.

Plans are in preparation for 2016 Earth Day. Ms. Hamilton volunteered to work on that project.

MOVED by Ms. Drazek to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante